

In 1850, Mr. Cassin unknowingly described this bird under the new name of *Pastor nigrocinctus* (Proc. Acad. Philad. 1850, p. 68). The description, he informs us, was taken from two specimens—one in the Albany Museum, U.S., and the other in the Philadelphia Academy. The fact of the similarity of this species with that of Lesson was first pointed out by Dr. Sclater (Proc. Zool. Soc. 1857, p. 6). It is one of the birds which I had, in my 'List of Genera,' published in 1855, "so quietly recapitulated," as the learned Editor of 'The Ibis' (1862, p. 291) is pleased to remark, "with the dry interrogatory, 'Nonne avis arte facta?'" I was induced to affix this observation from the appearance presented in my drawing, which was taken from M. Bourcier's typical specimen. It is now proved, in part at least, that I was not altogether wrong in supposing that the art of the taxidermist had been employed in endeavouring to replace by artificial means what the New-Guinean natives had deprived the three previously known specimens of,—for example, their wings and legs. The false restoration of these organs was the cause of a wrong position being assigned to the bird in regard to the family it occupied in the system of ornithology. Mr. Wallace's perfect specimens prove that the true wings and legs are very similar to those of the genus *Gracula*, both in form and colour; and it appears to be intermediate between the genera *Gracula* and *Basilornis*, being allied to the latter in its more slender-formed bill.

The name and synonyma of this fine and singularly coloured bird will now stand as follows:—

Gracula (Melanopyrrhus) Anais.

Sericulus Anais, Less., Rev. de Zool. 1839, p. 44; Pr. Bon., Consp. Av. i. p. 349.

Melanopyrrhus Anais, Pr. Bon., Compt. Rend. 1853, p. 831; G. R. Gray, List of Gen. 1855, p. 46.

Pastor nigrocinctus, Cass., Proc. Acad. Philad. 1850, p. 68.

?*Oriolus Anais*, G. R. Gray, Gen. of B. App. p. 11; *id.* Cat. of Birds of N. Guin. p. 26.

Gracula pectoralis, Wall., Proc. Z. S. 1862, p. 166. pl. 20.

Hab. New Guinea (Wall.).

The Gorilla. By THOMAS J. MOORE.

A statement, resting upon no reliable authority, lately appeared in the Liverpool newspapers, announcing the arrival and exhibition in this port of a young living specimen of a Gorilla.

This announcement, having been copied into the 'Times,' and continuing to be copied into various other papers, being absolutely untrue, it becomes necessary to give it an unqualified contradiction.

The so-called Gorilla is simply a Chimpanzee, standing somewhat over two feet in height, and having the large ears, flesh-coloured muzzle, with white hairs on the chin, and the deeply cleft fingers so characteristic of the species.

It is a robust, lively, and amusing creature, imitating its keeper

in various ways, as in trying to unlock a cupboard and to tack pieces of list over cracks in the door. But how any one who has once seen either a Chimpanzee or a Gorilla could mistake it for the young of the latter passes comprehension.

Mr. Bartlett and Mr. Waterhouse Hawkins, who have both seen the animal (the latter coming expressly from Wrexham, on the faith of the above public announcements, to do so), will confirm my statements, if they have not already published protests of their own.

One specimen of the Gorilla has certainly been imported into Liverpool alive. This occurred in the winter of 1855-56.

This individual, called "Jenny," was slightly larger, I believe, than the preceding, and was purchased by Mrs. Wombwell, in whose menagerie it lived some short time, and in which, on its subsequent arrival in Liverpool, I first saw it. A short notice of this animal was written by Mr. Waterton, and subsequently published in some local paper. It was active in its habits, and so far from being savage or ferocious, it lived with its mistress in her own special travelling carriage, about which it jumped and climbed freely.

Upon its death in March 1856, it was forwarded to Mr. Waterton, in whose museum at Walton Hall the preserved skin may still be seen. The skeleton is in the museum of the Philosophical and Literary Society of Leeds, whither it was forwarded direct from Walton Hall.

A young specimen, which died at the Gaboon, in the spring of this year, in the possession of Mr. R. B. Walker, may be seen, stuffed, in the museum of the Natural History Society of Manchester. This is smaller than the preceding, being, as nearly as I can remember, about the size of the young stuffed example in the British Museum.

The recent acquisition of the skin of an adult Gorilla, in first-rate condition, tempts me to make public the way in which it was preserved. It was very carefully skinned, down even to the very tips of the fingers and toes, and the skin preserved in spirit*. The carcass was exposed to insects for a short time, and then packed in a suitable box. By these means both skin and skeleton arrived in excellent condition, and indicate the most reliable methods of preserving future specimens for importation. They were secured for this Museum through the liberality of Mr. Henry Duckworth, F.G.S., of this town.

Before concluding, I may note that an enormous skeleton of a male Gorilla, presented to this Museum by Mr. R. B. Walker, measures $16\frac{3}{4}$ inches in the length of the femur.

Free Public and Derby Museum,
Liverpool, Nov. 24, 1862.

* Instructions recommending this method of transmitting the skin of the Gorilla were sent to the Gaboon by Dr. J. E. Gray, of the British Museum, in 1861.—EDS.